Shortage in Supply of Edible Oil

810. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage in supply of edible oil during the current year was apprehended by Government;

(b) if so, details of estimated demand of edible oil and estimated production/ supply of edible oil in the country during the period under reckoning;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have allowed import of edible oil viz. Palmolein for distribution through Pubic Distribution System to meet shortages;

(d) what is the quantity of Palmolein decided to be imported and the quantity imported so far alongwith the names of agencies involved in the import;

(e) whether it is a fact that a huge stock of Palmolein has been lying in prologned storage in Bombay and other centres under the custody of respective States administrations because they have not finalised agreement with packaging and distributing agencies; and

(f) details of the steps taken, if any, to ensure timely and adequate availability of Palmolein at the Public Distribution System outlines throughout the contry, uniformly?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The production of edible oils during the oil year (Nov.—Oct.) 1994-95 is likely to be 64.0 lakh tonnes as compared to the estimated demand of 69.8 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d) The StateTrading Corporation has been authorised to import RBD Palmolein for supply under the Public Distribution System. Import of 1.07 lakh tonnes of Palmolein has been made by STC during the year 1994-95.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Delivery of allocated quantities of imported palmolein is made to States/ UTs from the principal distribution Centres of STC located all over the country. After the oil is lifted from the STC Depots, it is the responsibility of the respective State Government/UT Administrations to ensure speedy distribution of the stocks to consumers through Fair Price Shops/Cooperative Outlets.

Rise in prices of essential commodities

811. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI G. G. SWELL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the rise in prices of essetnial commodities since the installation of the present Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that common people and particularly the people below poverty line have been hit hard due to inflation; if so what are the details about the sections of the population adversely affected;

(c) what are the factors that have led to rise in prices of essential commodities;

(d) whether the process of liberalisation has any relation with the rise in price in essential commodities; and

(e) if so, what measures are being undertaking to counter the adverse effect of liberalisation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) A Statement showing the veriation in the Wholesale Price Index of Selected essential commodities as on 22-6-1991 and 25-2-1995 is given here. *See* below).

(b) Inflation, in general, reduces the purchasing power of all sections of the society including those living below the poverty line. However, in view of their lower purchasing power capacity they are generally hit hard. To mitigate their hardships, the Government has been supplying the essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene, soft coke and imported edible oil at a below market price through FDS. In addition to this, under the Revamped Public Distribution System the people living below the poverty line in the tribal and far-flung areas are being provided these commodities at a special rate lower than even the areas covered under general FDS. The items of mass consumption are also being supplied through Cooperative institutions like Super Bazar, Kendriya Bhandar and the retail outlets of the State Civil Supplies Corporation at an affordable prices. However, the details in respect of various sections of the population adversely affected are not available.

(c) The prices of essential commodities like edible oils and pulses have risen essentially due to the gap between their demand and supply in the country. The prices of foodgrains though have risen at lower pace are necessitated because of the higher prices paid to the farmers for procuring foodgrains for distribution under Public Distribution System. The prices of other items have tendency to rise once their input cost increases. The rise in the prices of wage goods also generally causes all other prices to rise with some time. The shortage in the production of sugar during 1993-94 led to rise in the prices of sugar in May and June last year.

(d) and (e) The process of economic liberalisation initiated by the Government is not likely to have any adverse impact on the prices of essential commodities.

Statement

Wholesale Price Index of selected essential commodities

Commodity	Wholesale Price Index		(Base – 1981-82-100) Percentage Vriation
	22-6-1991	25-2-1995	25-2-1995 / 22-6-1991
Rice	195.2	301.0	+54.2
Wheat	173.9	280.1	+61·1
Gram	200.6	313.5	+56.3
Tur	300.7	299.3	+32.8
Potatoes	277.9	197.6	–28·9
Onions	207.8	163.2	–21.5
Tea	306.7	309.2	+0·8
Salt	187.3	256.4	+36·9
Sagar	147.4	218.6	+48·3
Groundnut oil	262.2	303.6	+15.8
Mustardoil	211.3	259.6	+22·9
Vanaspati	271.5	272.5	+0·4
LL COMMODITIES	199.2	284.5	+42.8